NASA Project Management Challenge 2009

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

How Risk Management can make a Project Manager Healthier, Wealthier, and Wiser

Project Managers need to recognize that uncertainty and unexpected problems are part of every project. As stated in Take A Chance Track Theme of this conference, "How Project Managers identify and deal with risk is often the key to success or the reason for failure."

This presentation will discuss simple but effective methods of identifying and managing risks that has worked for the author in his 44 years of Aerospace experience; over half of his experience is in Project and Program Management.

A complex multi-agency, multi-contractor NASA Flight Research project will be highlighted and real world examples of how the author personally used the techniques to successfully meet all cost, schedule and technical objectives of the project will be discussed.

Emphases will be on how these techniques can be used to improve project success; in addition examples will be presented on how Risk Management can be used to improve other areas of a Project Managers life.

Dr. James F. Stewart
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Dr. James F. Stewart is currently the NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC) Chief Engineer at Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC), a position he has held since 2006. From 1997, when he was selected as a supervisor for the Aerospace Projects Branch he held a series of positions with increasing responsibilities in the management of the Dryden Aerospace Projects Directorate, first as Branch Chief, then as Assistant Director for Aerospace Projects, next as Deputy Director for Aerospace Projects (Acting), and finally Director for Aerospace Projects (Acting), until in 2004 when he became the Dryden Exploration Mission Director. Simultaneously with his management positions in The Dryden Projects Directorate, he held several additional positions: NASA's Flight Research R&T Base Program Manager from 1999 to 2001 and Environment Research and Sensor Technology (ERAST) Project Manager from 1998 to 1999.

He was Assistant Flight Research R&T Base Program Manager from 1996 to 1997. He was Deputy Chief of the Research Engineering Directorate at Dryden from 1995 to 1996. In 1993, he was Dryden's selectee for the NASA SES Candidate Development Program, where in 1994 he was: first, Special Assistant to the Deputy Associate Administrator for

Aeronautics at NASA Headquarters; second, he held a position with The US Congress on the Staff of Congressman McKeon.

Prior to these special assignments, he was Project Manager from 1986 to 1994 for several major projects at Dryden. He originated the F-15 Advance Control Technology for Integrated Vehicles (ACTIVE) Project, which included Pitch-Yaw Thrust Vectoring Control and Adaptive Intelligent Control Research. Prior to this, he was Project Manager for the F-15 Highly Integrated Digital Electronic Control Project (HIDEC), which included Adaptive Digital Engine Control (ADEC), Performance-Seeking Control (PSC), Propulsion Controlled Aircraft (PCA), and Self-Repairing Flight Control System (SRFC) Projects.

He was the Project Engineer at NASA for the X-29 aircraft from 1982 to 1985, in which he was responsible for all engineering and flight test of the X-29 aircraft. Prior to 1982, he was Principal Investigator for the F-8 Digital Fly-by-Wire Projects at NASA including international research activities. He joined NASA in 1978 after working in Engineering and Project positions on missile and aircraft programs at LTV, Martin, and Hughes Aerospace Companies, from 1965 through 1978.

He received a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University, a M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Arkansas, a M.S. degree in System Engineering from Southern Methodist University, a Masters degree in Business Administration (M.B.A.) from University of California, Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. in both Electrical Engineering and Business from University of Louisville. He is a Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor for single and multi-engine aircraft with instrument rating.

He has over two dozen technical publications in digital, optimal, reconfigurable, integrated controls and project management. He is a patent holder and has received numerous NASA Awards for ACTIVE, HIDEC, ADEC PSC, PCA, SRFC, and The NASA Exceptional Service Medal.